taneously so that the cell next to the terminal one contains two or even more nuclei. From this cell arise the hypha which are to bear the asci, although the tangle formed by the ascogenaus hyphæ is so great that it cannot be asserted with certainty that some of the hyphæ arise from the adjoining cells of the tube. The cells which ultimately form the asci can always be recognized by their large size and by having two nuclei. An account is given of the development of the perithecial wall and the conidial spores in Erysiphe. A less minute account is given of the development of the fruit in *Ascobolus*, in which the interesting point is brought out that the septa in the Ascogonium are perforated in the center. The paper closes with some very suggestive general remarks on the relation of the fertilization in Ascomycetes to that in Florideæ. The union of nuclei in asci and basidia, which has been considered a sexual act by a number of recent writers, is not so interpreted by Dr. Harper. In the Erysipheæ, at least, the real sexual process is found in the union of the nuclei of the antheridum and the oozonium. W. G. F.

8. *A gigantic Cephalopod on the Florida coast.*—Mr. R. P. Whitfield has forwarded to the writer the following letter from Dr. Webb to Mr. J. A. Allen, dated St. Augustine, Fla., Dec. 8th, 1896:

"You may be interested to know of the body of an immense Octopus thrown ashore some miles south of this city. Nothing but the stump of the tentacles remain, as it had evidently been dead for some time before being washed ashore. As it is, however, the body measures 18 feet in length by 10 feet in breadth. Its immense size and condition will prevent all attempts at preservation. I thought its size might interest you, as I do not know of the record of one so large."

The proportions given above indicate that this may have been a squid-like form and not an *Octopus*. The "breadth" is evidently that of the softened and collapsed body, and would represent an actual maximum diameter in life of at least 7 feet, and a probable weight of 4 to 5 tons for the body and head. These dimensions are decidedly larger than those of any of the well-authenticated Newfoundland specimens. It is perhaps a species of *Architeuthis*. Professor Steenstrup recorded many years ago a species of this genus (*A. dux*),* taken in 1855 in the West Indian seas, but his example was much smaller than the one here recorded.

A. E. VERRILL.

IV. Miscellaneous Scientific Intelligence.

1. *A History of Elementary Mathematics, with hints on methods of teaching;* by Florian Cajori, Ph.D., Professor of Physics in Colorado College. pp. 304. New York, 1896 (The Macmillan Company).—A book which presents the most important part of the history of mathematics in a form attractive

* See Trans. Connecticut Acad., vol. v. Also Report U. S. Fish Commis. for 1879, p. 51, pl. 12, fig. 4.